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SUMMER 2017

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15th Anniversary Edition



*The Pinup Girls*  
VOLUME THREE



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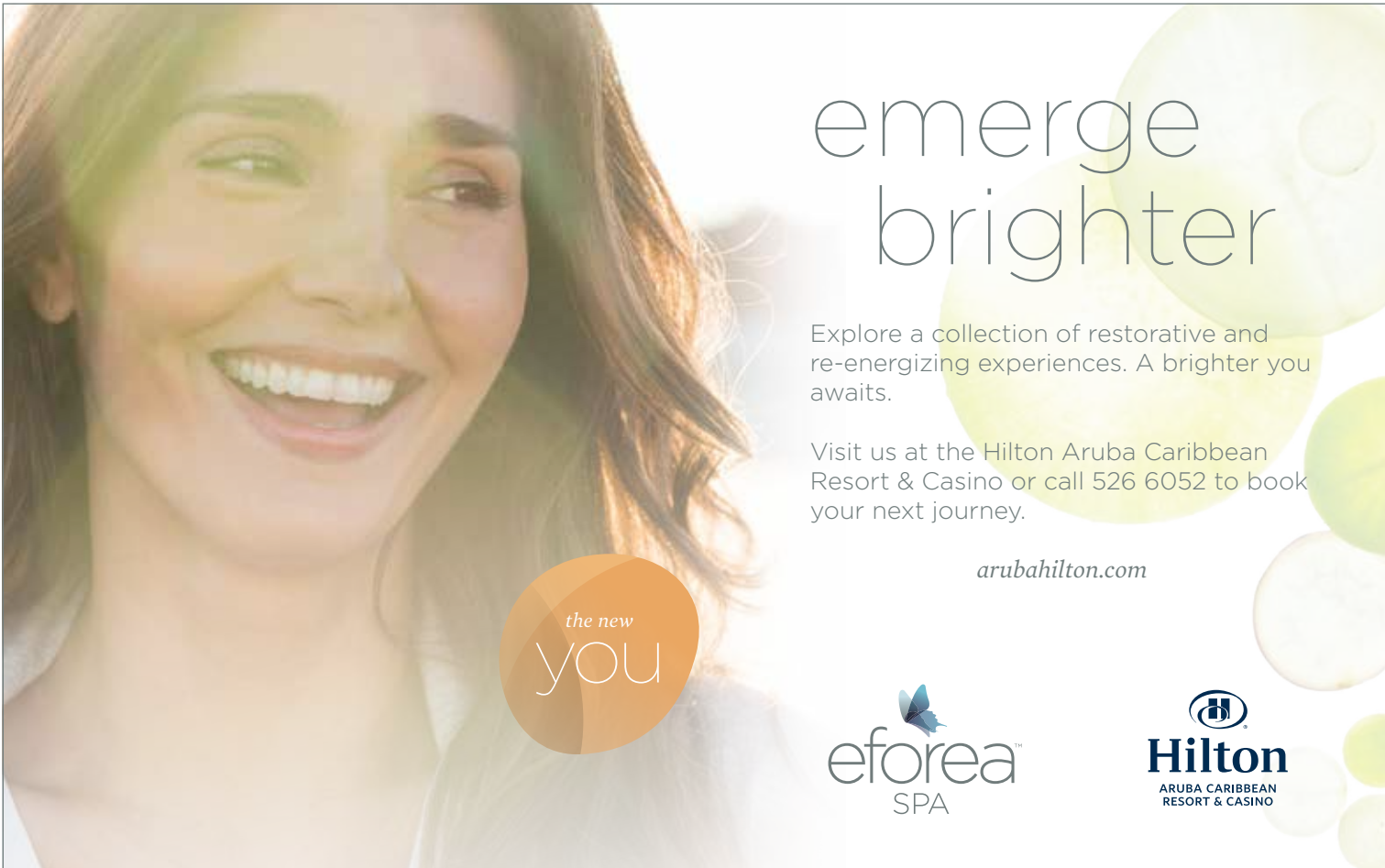
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Throughout the years, trends have come and gone, and a lot of new development has brought change to the world, our tourism landscape, and our community in general, but one thing has remained constant: the Aruban community continues to amaze us with creativity and ingenuity. Our culinary scene is second to none in the Caribbean—becoming more diverse and cutting-edge every year. The members of our art community—whether visual artists, performers, or musicians—are ripe with talent and inspiring imagination. The island's athletes are pushing the limits not just here but also abroad in international competitions and games, setting records, winning championships, and bringing home medals and trophies to the pride of this Aruban nation. And the dedicated individuals, groups, foundations, and organizations that are promoting social and environmental responsibility through grassroots efforts are making positive changes and elevating the island's social consciousness one saved stray dog, one rescued shoco owl, and one clean beach at a time. We are honored to share our island's stories and look forward to many more years!

*The Island Temptations Team*

## Our Front COVER

Maartje Dolfin recreates a pinup by famed illustrator Gil Elvgren. The illustration, titled "A Fast Takeoff," first appeared in print in 1954. Photographed by Steve Keith, art direction by Tina Causey-Bislick. Hair and makeup by Maria Alejandra. Outfit by seamstress Verena Lian Fashions.



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# The Pinup Girls

## Volume 3

Text and Art Direction by Tina Causey-Bislick  
Photography by Steve Keith

T

wo of *Island Temptations*' most memorable editions were our two pinup editions (2006 and 2010). We are celebrating 15 years and felt it only fitting to mark this milestone with a third installment of our artistic, Aruban take on classic pinups of the 1940s, '50s, and '60s.

Using iconic island scenery as a backdrop, our models did an awesome job of embracing their roles and recreating the sassy, sexy, and fun pinup girls of a bygone era. Recreating some of these poses is much harder than it may seem—these are, after all, women sketched from an artist's imagination, with body shapes and positioning that in reality are just not always anatomically possible.

Lending their talents to help us achieve each look were seamstress Verena Lian Fashions and makeup and hair artists Bruce Stamper, Maria Alejandra, and Jennifer Croes-Veeris (JenniVe). And of course, none of this is possible without our director of photography, Steve Keith. This pictorial goes way beyond a standard fashion shoot. It requires a precise eye for detail, an immense—and I mean IMMENSE—amount of artistic talent, Photoshop prowess, and the patience of a saint to recreate all the details of these images!

*\*Swimsuits in this editorial are from The Juggling Fish, located beachside at Playa Linda Beach Resort.*









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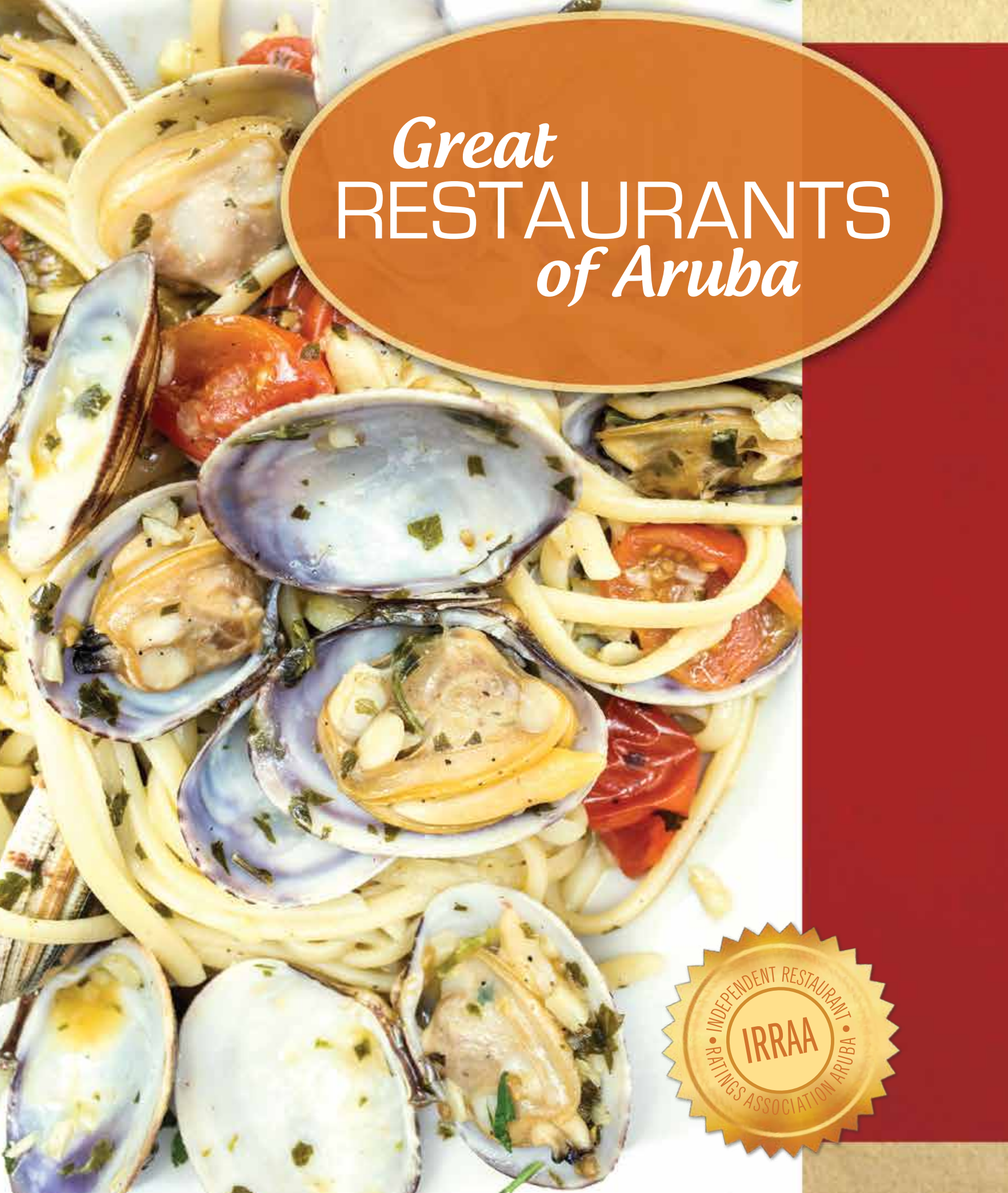


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# Aruba Resorts Get Crafty with Cocktails

Text by Tina Causey-Bislick  
Photography by Steve Keith

Three years ago, *Island Temptations* featured the up-and-coming craft cocktail scene on Aruba. At that time, there was just a small handful of restaurants featuring craft cocktails on their beverage menus. Today, several restaurants and resorts now highlight well-balanced cocktails, utilizing house-made syrups, infused liquors, a variety of bitters, fresh fruits, herbs, edible flowers, and spices. Bartenders have stepped up their game, studying up on new techniques and presentations. Over at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino, The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba, and Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino, craft cocktail menus have become an integral part of the food and beverage philosophies of these resorts, with impressive cocktails showcased in many of their restaurants and bars. Join us on a crafty tour as we introduce you to some of the unique libations that are shaking up the scene.

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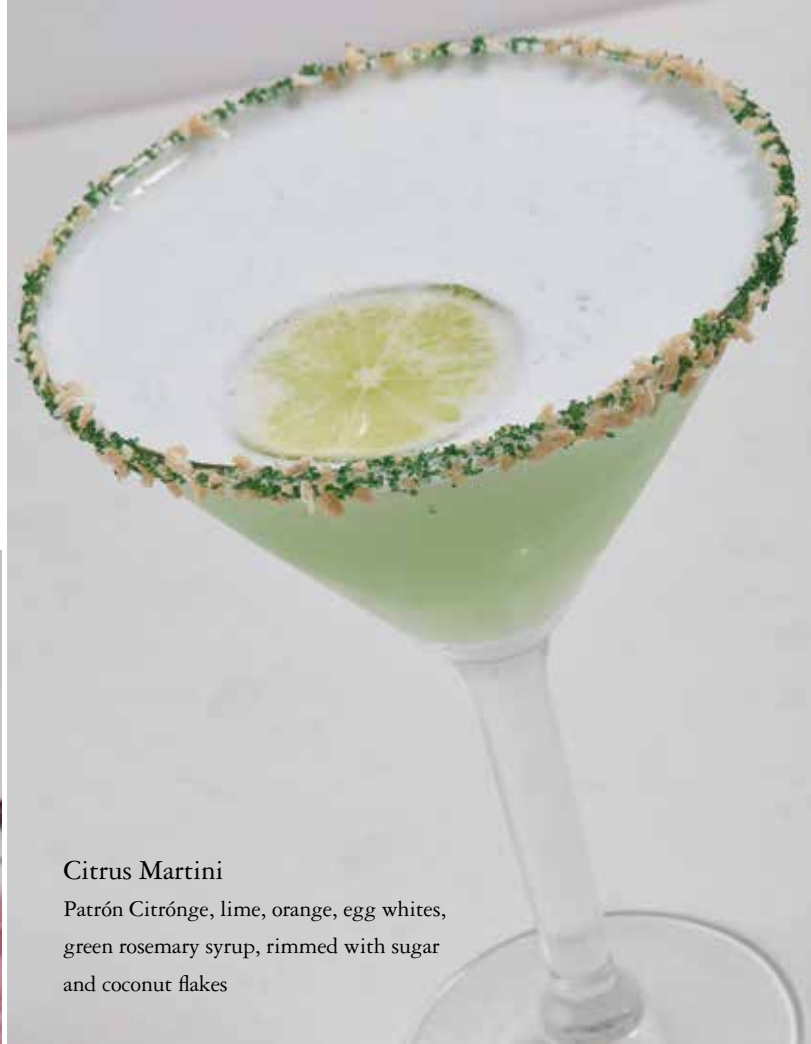
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## Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino

The Lobby Bar here launched a new craft program this past April—a Mixers and Shakers event held on the last Friday of the month from 7 pm – 10 pm. The craft cocktails are created by the bar's team of mixologists, including the current reigning Iron Bartender, Jason Tromp, who won the 2nd Annual Bartenders' Brawl in October 2016. While signature cocktails like the Smoking Old Fashioned and the Hibiscus Margarita will be regular features on the cocktail menu, the team of mixologists will be creating new cocktails every month for the Mixers and Shakers event.



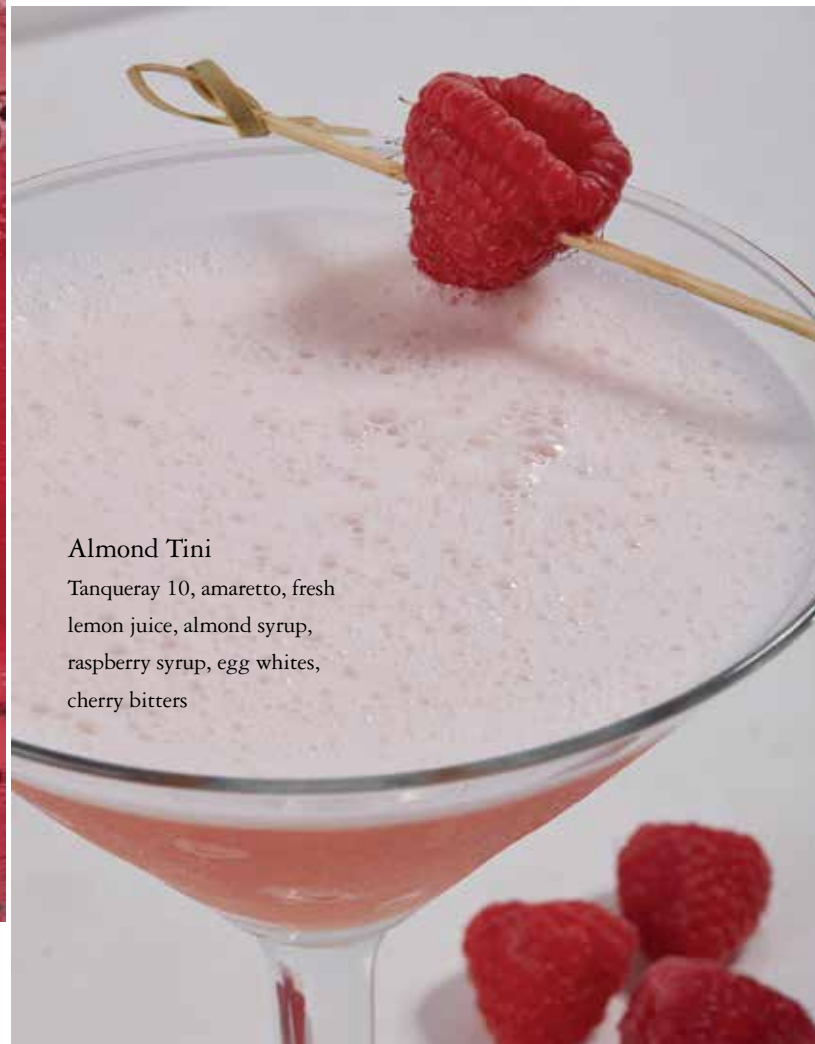
### Citrus Martini

Patrón Citrónge, lime, orange, egg whites, green rosemary syrup, rimmed with sugar and coconut flakes



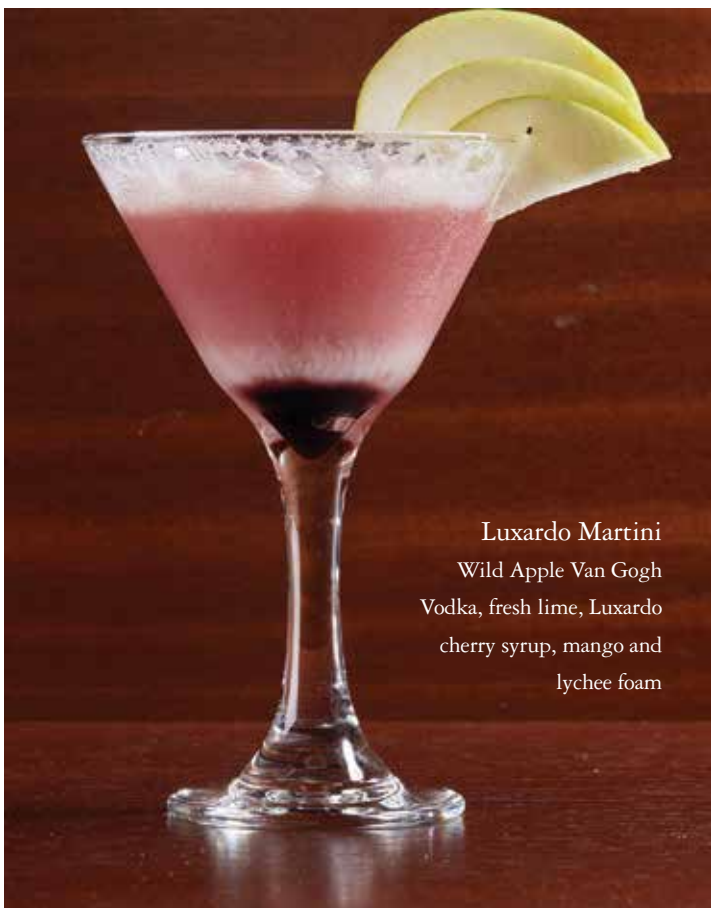
### Hibiscus Margarita

Patrón Citrónge, Patrón Silver, Cointreau, lime, hibiscus syrup, hibiscus flower garnish



### Almond Tini

Tanqueray 10, amaretto, fresh lemon juice, almond syrup, raspberry syrup, egg whites, cherry bitters



Luxardo Martini  
Wild Apple Van Gogh  
Vodka, fresh lime, Luxardo  
cherry syrup, mango and  
lychee foam



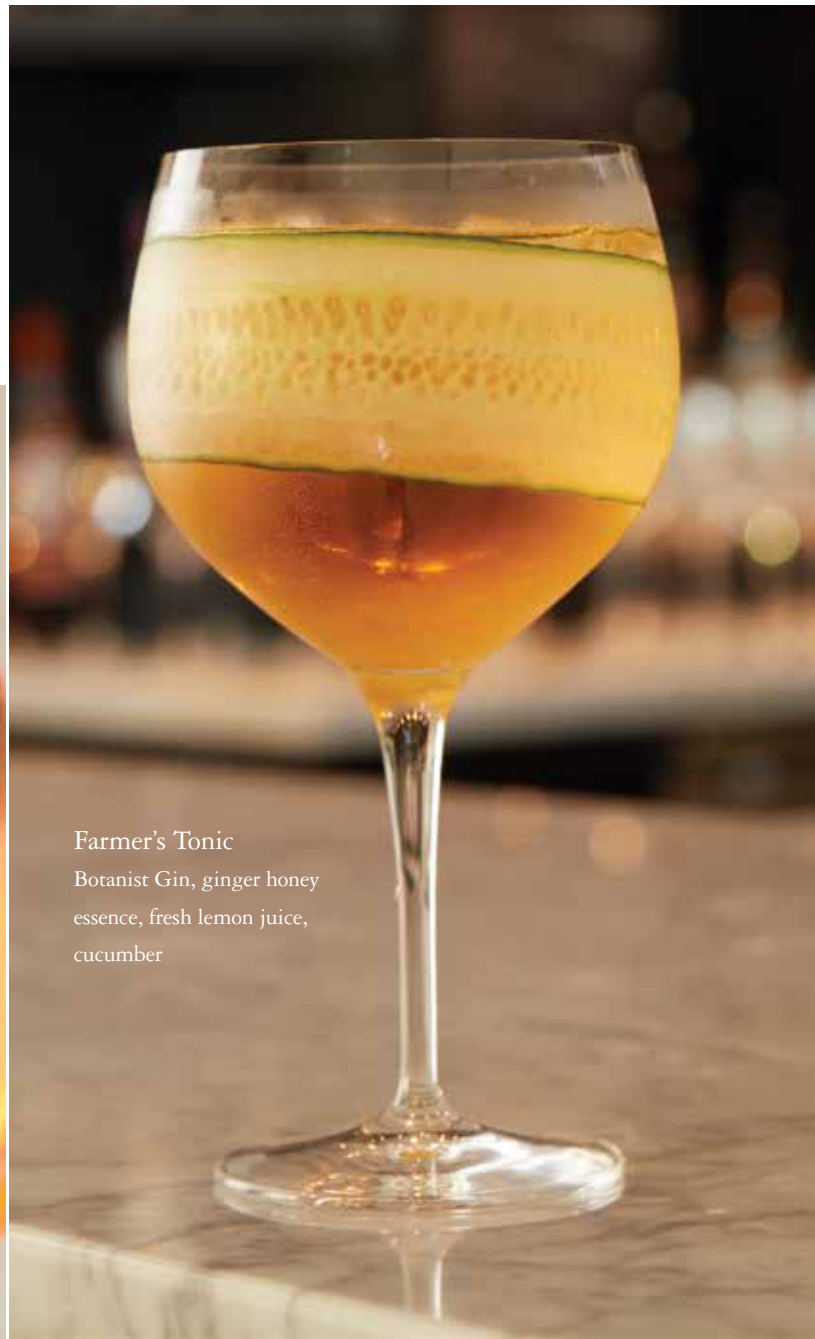
Almond Delight  
Scotch whiskey,  
almond syrup, egg whites



Peach Break  
Crown Royal, peach purée, Peach Pucker,  
raspberry extract, bay leaves, peach cubes,  
rimmed with cinnamon sugar



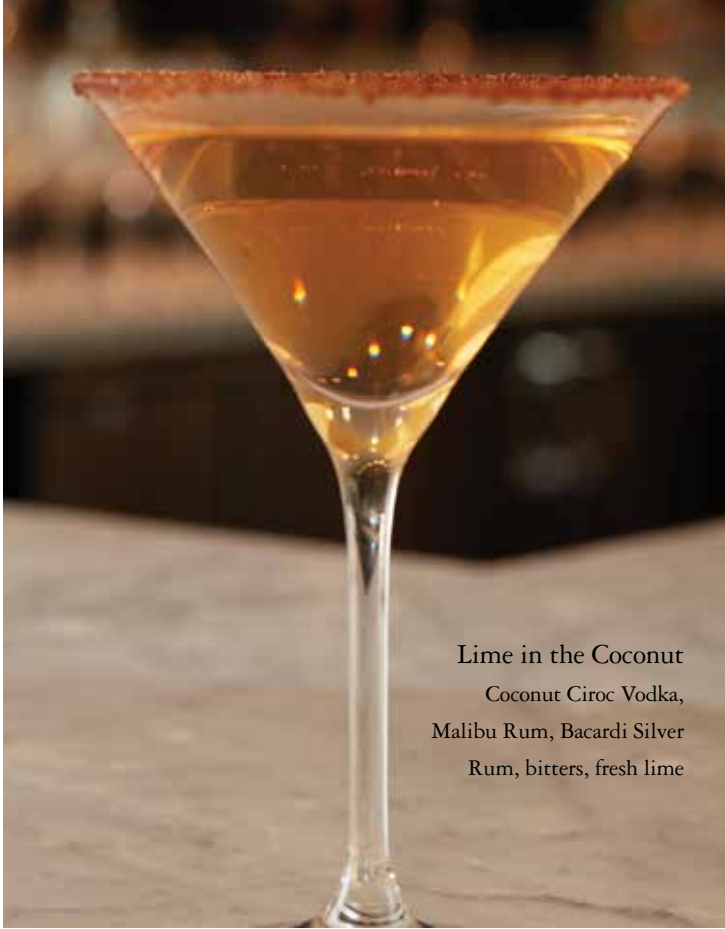
**Four Petal Flower**  
St-Germain, Aperol, Van Gogh  
Orange, Angostura bitters, splash of  
Prosecco, hibiscus



**Farmer's Tonic**  
Botanist Gin, ginger honey  
essence, fresh lemon juice,  
cucumber

### **The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba**

The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba creates unique experiences with modern classic cocktails that can bring experimental emotions to guests. The resort's signature cocktails are created to bring the destination closer to guests. Pictured here are craft cocktails from BLT Steak.



Lime in the Coconut  
Coconut Ciroc Vodka,  
Malibu Rum, Bacardi Silver  
Rum, bitters, fresh lime



Blueberry Agave  
Silver tequila, Cointreau, fresh blueberries,  
fresh lime, cranberry juice



Airmail  
Mount Gay Extra Old Rum, honey  
syrup, pineapple, Prosecco

## Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino

Renaissance's Blue Bar was the first outlet at this resort to receive a craft makeover. The resort brought in international craft cocktail masters from Cocktail Professor, based in the Netherlands, to create original craft cocktails. The team from Cocktail Professor spent time on Aruba, soaking up the island vibe and sourcing local ingredients to incorporate into the cocktails.



**Tormenta Tropical**  
Pineapple, lime, herbal  
liqueur, nutmeg, clove,  
cardamom,  
local papaya salsa



**Peligroso Old Fashioned**  
Homemade sweet red bell pepper  
syrup, yellow Madame Jeanette  
pepper, salsa, bourbon



**Oro Huba**  
Passion fruit, mango syrup, vanilla  
elixir, coconut rum, dark rum

*Images provided by Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino*



Welcome in  
Pearadise  
Pear liqueur, chayote,  
lime, dark rum

Carnival  
Local tropical fruits and  
flowers, cherry liqueur, pear  
liqueur, gin, lime



Bush Medicine  
Ginger, local coriander,  
lemon, Aruban cucumber,  
blue plumbago flower,  
honey, vodka, foamy top

\*In October, Renaissance will host the 3rd Annual Bartenders' Brawl, featuring the island's top bartenders shaking and stirring their original cocktails in hopes of winning the most votes to become Aruba's next Iron Bartender. The Bartenders' Brawl will be held at Renaissance Marketplace on **XXXXXXXXXXXX** during the annual Eat Local Restaurant Month.

# Aruba's Animal Rescue Roundup

Text by Debbie Kunder



The World Society for the Protection of Animals claims that roughly 75% of the dogs in the world are strays. If you're someone who has a dog, loves and respects it, and provides for its every need, a statistic like this can be heart-wrenching, for the life of a stray is often characterized by malnutrition or starvation, disease, injury, and the lack of love from the very humans that bred them to crave our love.

Aruba is by no means immune to the problem of strays, including both dogs and cats. According to one source, the number of stray and semi-stray dogs

and cats in Aruba is estimated to be between 30,000 and 40,000. Compared to a human population of about 105,000, this estimate is concerning. But the intention here is not to judge; the intention is to figure out how to solve the problem, how to ensure that Aruba is not only "One Happy Island" for its people and visitors, but for animals as well.

Fortunately, there are an ever-increasing number of animal welfare and rescue organizations on the island devoted to reining in the problem. Each group has its unique way of approaching the problem, often determined by the availability of resources. But one

thing is clear: All the organizations agree that spay and neuter, along with education and the promotion of responsible pet ownership, is the key to solving the problem.

The following is a roundup of Aruba's various animal welfare and rescue groups. It is not a complete list—there are others, not to mention the many individual animal lovers who are doing what they can to help. But these are the big hitters. We invite you to get acquainted with them, maybe lend a helping hand, and of course, donate!



## Aruba Animal Shelter

This year, the Aruba Animal Shelter is celebrating 30 years, making it the oldest animal welfare organization on the island. Since 1987, it has been providing shelter and finding new homes for many hundreds of Aruba's abandoned dogs and cats. The shelter does not receive any assistance from the government, but rather runs solely on private donations and the dedicated work of volunteers.

In 1996, the shelter opened its doors at its current location in Wayaca, near the airport. The open-air, well-maintained shelter has enough space to house (on average) 14 adult dogs, 14 pups, four adult cats, and ten kittens. All the animals have access to spacious areas for playing and socializing with one another, as well as with potential adopters and visitors just stopping by for a cuddle or two.

Most of the animals at the shelter are rescued by shelter volunteers from the government-funded drop-off cages for unwanted dogs and cats, located just outside the shelter (yet in no way associated with the shelter). Once in the shelter, a rescued animal is washed, treated for parasites, fed, registered, and taken to the vet for medical attention. They are put on a vaccination schedule and spayed/neutered when old enough. "We use the services of the vet located behind the shelter to make sure that all of our animals are as healthy as possible before being adopted and going home with their new families," explains Sandy Willemsen, one of the shelter's two managers. Most of the families adopting from the shelter are local, but tourists can (and do) adopt from the shelter as well.

Eva Herry, who has been with the shelter for a whopping 21 years, explains that one of the biggest challenges is managing all the volunteers. "Without reliable volunteers, we simply cannot function. We have to work around volunteers' work schedules, vacations, and other commitments, and of course, volunteers get sick, so we have to shuffle things around all the time. More local youths are volunteering at the shelter, especially during school breaks, which is helpful for us and educational for them. We even have a few tourists who come and volunteer for us each time they visit the island. Tourists are always welcome, even if they just want to cuddle!"

The shelter educates with each adoption, explaining to each new owner how to provide proper care for their new family member. The shelter also accommodates school groups and summer campers in an effort to educate the next generation of pet owners.

Most years, the Aruba Animal Shelter holds a big family day fundraiser on its premises in Wayaca, but this year, to celebrate its 30th anniversary, the shelter will be hosting a dog show at Rancho Villa Floralina on October 29. The entire community will be invited to register their four-legged companions in a number of categories. It's sure to be a huge extravaganza of animal lovers and their furry loved ones.

Address: Wayaca 126 B. Opening hours: Monday – Friday, 8 am to 12 noon; Saturday, 8 am to 3 pm. Phone: 582-1623

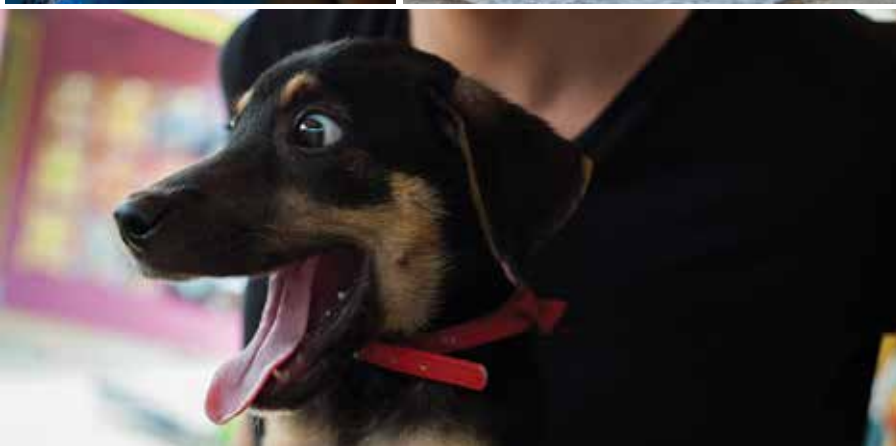
Email: [animalshelterwayaca@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterwayaca@gmail.com)

Website: [www.arubaanimalshelter.com](http://www.arubaanimalshelter.com)

Facebook: @Aruba.Animal.Shelter

Instagram: @arubaanimalshelter

To donate, visit the shelter in person; send a check made out to "Aruba Animal Shelter" to P.O. Box 207, Oranjestad, Aruba; or make a bank transfer to RBC Royal Bank, account # 7700000032451794, swift code RBTTAWAW.



## Animal Rights Aruba (ARA)

Founded in 1999, ARA is an animal welfare organization that serves as Aruba's unofficial humane society. While all types of animals are included in its scope, ARA focuses on Aruba's dog and cat populations. The group's priorities include the promotion of responsible pet ownership and local laws regarding animal welfare. ARA responds to reports of animal neglect or abuse by visiting the owner and trying to implement a change in the situation through education. Additionally, ARA can now rely on the assistance of police to enforce the relatively new "dog law" that was recently put into power on the island.

The promotion of spay and neuter is certainly high on ARA's list of priorities. ARA launched an islandwide sterilization campaign in 2013, and today, the organization raises funds on a continual basis to spay and neuter for individual cases and for other rescue groups. ARA also rescues animals from the street, but due to a lack of fosters, its rescue efforts are limited. Most of ARA's rescues wait for their forever homes with ARA's super-foster, Zorina Kelly.

It's clearly not easy. ARA board member Inge van Roon points out, "Our biggest challenges are funding, volunteers, and fosters." But where there's a will, there's a way. ARA carries out fundraising activities targeted at both locals and island guests, such as the golf tournament fundraiser at The Links at Divi Aruba that took place this past April. Long term, ARA is looking to skirt the problem of limited fosters by building a shelter for adoptable dogs and cats, which of course requires even more funding. According to ARA board member Andreina Wever, "We are open to the possibility of working with other rescue groups to build a shelter. We think a shelter is highly needed, but there are now so many rescue groups, and for all of us to be building shelters is not wise."

Inge adds, "ARA's biggest success over the years has been in the area of awareness. Although there is a long way to go, we feel we have made great strides. Social media has certainly helped with this. I'm also really pleased that the island's various animal rescue groups are all working together more. On our own, we're all so small, so we *have* to work together."

Website: [www.animalrightsaruba.org](http://www.animalrightsaruba.org)

Facebook: Animal Rights Aruba

Donate via PayPal on ARA's website or make a bank transfer to RBC Bank Aruba, account # 7700000030627674, swift code RBTTAWAW.



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## Animal Relief Foundation Aruba (ARF-Aruba)

In 2010, a few Americans who had made Aruba their home way from home began operating ARF-Aruba as a non-profit organization. Over the years, the organization has rescued countless dogs and cats from neglect and placed them in loving homes. Incidentally, ARF was the first foundation on the island to start placing rescued animals in the U.S. for adoption.

Today, ARF continues to send pups, kittens, and the occasional adult dog to the States with the support of its network of fosters and transporters. Kathy Andreottola explains that puppies are simply not available for adoption in the American Northeast, and pups from Aruba fill this demand perfectly. It's more difficult to find fosters and homes for adult dogs, and more difficult than ever to send them off given the ever-tightening airline restrictions. Consequently, ARF now has a policy to only rescue adult dogs that have a guaranteed home, explains ARF volunteer Karah Bunde.

Like the other organizations on the island, ARF believes that spay/neuter is one of the main ways to address the problem of overpopulation. Karah points out that spaying one female and neutering her mate can potentially prevent about 67,000 puppies from being born on the streets over a period of six years. This statistic is mind-blowing! In 2016, ARF sponsored Operation Cunucu, a MASH (Mobile Animal Surgical Hospital) event brought to Aruba by the global NGO Animal Balance, which was responsible for spaying/neutering 338 dogs on the island. Today, ARF continues to spay and neuter street dogs as much as possible, but they are returned to the street a few days after operation for the reasons explained above. ARF posts photos of these dogs on its Facebook page in an album called "Street Dogs of Aruba" in case someone would like to claim one of them for adoption, either before or even after they are returned to the street.

Karah, who kicked off her foray into animal rescue as a puppy transporter, explains that ARF's two biggest challenges are finding fosters and acquiring funds. She feels that people shy away from fostering simply because they don't really know what it involves. "It doesn't cost a thing to foster for ARE. We pay for everything. The foster simply needs to provide a safe place for the animal and TLC," explains Karah. As for fundraising, ARF has its own committee that organizes fundraising events, such as golf tournaments and "yappy" hours. Most recently, the Hyatt Regency Aruba held a fun run and walk event benefiting ARF as well as rescue group Sgt. Pepper's Friends.

ARF's successes? "Rather than one big success, it's more about all the little things that add up. We're making a difference one animal at a time. We believe in consistent work towards a worthwhile cause," explains Karah. For 2016, all these little things added up to more than 220 animals being helped by the organization. And the most rewarding part of all this? Kathy smiles, "The follow-ups. I love visiting the animals we've found homes for."

Email: [aruba.arf@gmail.com](mailto:aruba.arf@gmail.com)

Website: [arf-aruba.com](http://arf-aruba.com)

Facebook: @ARFAruba

ARF-Aruba is registered in the U.S., so all donations to ARF are tax-deductible in the U.S. and can be made through PayPal (via website) or by check (see website for info). ARF is also now registered in Aruba, and local bank transfers can be made to Aruba Bank, account # 2615710190.



*"Spaying one female and neutering her mate can potentially prevent about 67,000 puppies from being born on the streets over a period of six years."*



Images provided by @sodalime


## Sgt. Pepper's Friends

When international yoga teacher Rachel Brathen was in Thailand leading a yoga retreat in 2015, she posted about a neglected pit bull on her heavily followed Instagram account, consequently receiving hundreds of emails within just a few hours from people willing to help. Realizing how social media could serve as an engine of change in the world of animal rescue on the island of Aruba, where she resides, she opened an Instagram account called Sgt. Pepper's Friends, named after her own dog that had recently passed away. In no time at all—and with a few very dedicated volunteers added into the mix—Sgt. Pepper's Friends blossomed into a proper foundation. Through the hard work of its volunteers, paired with the support of its Instagram followers (now numbering over 81,000), Sgt. Pepper's Friends has rescued and found new homes for over 300 of Aruba's neglected dogs and cats.


Sgt. Pepper's rescues are cared for by about ten local foster families while waiting to be adopted or sent to their forever homes. Most of the rescues are adopted by families in the U.S. and Canada, although many also go to Holland, Sweden, even Denmark and Germany, and of course, some are adopted locally in Aruba. Sgt. Pepper's social media approach is so successful at connecting available rescues with potential adopters that the organization often receives a bevy of applications for the same animal. Not such a bad problem to have!

Scrolling through Sgt. Pepper's Instagram photos of super cute






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## SPECIAL FEATURE

rescues would give anyone the impression that this foundation only focuses on rescue and adoption, but that is far from the truth. Sgt. Pepper team member Dayenne Holwerda Munk explains that the stories about the rescues—where they came from, updates on their health, their personalities, and where they are headed—tend to resonate the most with followers, so that’s what is mostly posted. But spay/neuter is also a huge priority of Sgt. Pepper’s Friends. “If you’re only rescuing, it’s like you’re cleaning up a puddle with the hose still running,” Dayenne points out. To date, Sgt. Pepper has sterilized roughly 250 dogs and cats. Sgt. Pepper also believes in the importance of education, taking lessons about responsible pet ownership into local schools.

According to Dayenne, Sgt. Pepper’s biggest challenges are finding volunteers to help run the organization and finding fosters for adult dogs. To address the first problem, the organization even welcomes volunteers from off-island to come for an extended period of time to help out with the day-to-day work of Sgt. Pepper: rescuing animals, taking rescues to the vet, visiting foster families and providing supplies, fostering rescues, and seeing rescues off at the airport. The new home-like shelter that Sgt. Pepper has in the works will certainly alleviate the latter problem. To help raise funds for the home, Sgt. Pepper teamed up with 109 World, another organization founded by the ever-busy Rachel Brathen. Through 109 World, 60 animal activists from all over the world embarked upon a mission trip to Aruba to help rescue animals and educate children—plus do lots of yoga at Brathen’s new studio, Island Yoga. Through the support of the participants, almost \$45,000 was raised for Sgt. Pepper’s Home... coming soon!

Email: [info@sgtpeppersfriends.com](mailto:info@sgtpeppersfriends.com)

Website: [www.sgtpeppersfriends.com](http://www.sgtpeppersfriends.com)

Facebook and Instagram: @sgtpeppersfriends

Donate money via PayPal or send supplies via Amazon on Sgt. Pepper’s website, or make a local transfer to Aruba Bank, account # 2591080190. Merchandise also available on website.

## New Life for Paws

New Life for Paws, founded in July 2015 by Russian-American Natalya Yermak, splits its time and resources between rescuing and rehoming dogs and cats (over 280 adoptions to date) and sterilizing street dogs to help break the cycle of overpopulation. Natalya is the tireless “rescue lady” of the operation, assisted by a handful of other volunteers, as well as a network of local and U.S.-based fosters.

Like ARF and Sgt. Pepper’s Friends, New Life for Paws specializes in saving pups from the streets of Aruba and rehoming them abroad. (New Life also takes in many of the pups found by the Crijojo Trappers—see page 62.) When pups are rescued, they are



Images provided by @sodalime\_



*“If you’re only rescuing, it’s like you’re cleaning up a puddle with the hose still running.”*



fostered locally until they are between eight and ten weeks old, then sent to the U.S. with the help of an organization called Aruba Flight Volunteers, which finds chaperones to transport the pups. The pups either go directly to their new home or stay with a U.S.-based foster until a new home is found. Once a pup is posted on Facebook, on average, a new home is secured in about one week.

New Life for Paws also rescues pregnant, elderly, and sick dogs from the streets, brings them back to good health, and tries to rehome them. But as always, there's never enough space and never enough fosters, which is why New Life has launched Project Pawsitive in order to raise funds for a shelter of sorts—more like a rehabilitation home—to provide its rescues a safe haven where they can be cared for until they find their forever homes.

Incidentally, New Life for Paws played a role in one of the first penalized cases of animal neglect under the island's new dog law. New Life took Luna, who had been terribly abused, into its care, and today she is enjoying her new life with the foster family that couldn't resist welcoming her permanently into their home. Another happy ending.

Facebook: [@NewLifeForPaws](#)

To become a Flight Volunteer, follow [@ArubaFlightVolunteers](#).

New Life for Paws is registered in the U.S., so all donations are tax-deductible in the U.S. Donate via PayPal using New Life's email, [Paypal@newlifeforpaws.org](mailto:Paypal@newlifeforpaws.org). Locals can donate to the New Life For Paws account at the front desk of Animal Health Veterinary Hospital.

## Nisi Canis Heart of Gold Foundation

Nisi Canis (Latin for “Save a Pet”) was founded in October 2015 out of the overwhelming frustration with Aruba’s pet overpopulation problem. Many of the animal welfare groups on the island were founded out of similar frustrations, but Nisi Canis feels that it approaches the problem a bit differently. First of all, you won’t find Nisi Canis sending animals to the States for adoption. “We feel it’s just shifting the problem elsewhere. The U.S. has overpopulation problems of its own, with over two million healthy, adoptable cats and dogs put down each year,” explains Nisi’s founder. Secondly, of all the local organizations, it’s the one that focuses most heavily on TNR (trap-neuter-release) to resolve the overpopulation problem. And while Nisi uses local vet services, it also seeks out alternative ways to treat animals, using holistic medication and care.

Nisi has three projects on the burners at this moment: Operation Flame of Hope (see Crijajo Trappers below), the Nisi Canis hotel, and a minivan service. Another way that Nisi does things differently is by using its projects in ways to help generate funds, which are deposited back into the Nisi pot. For example, Nisi just opened its animal hotel in Savaneta in May 2017. With space for 20 dogs, plus a quarantine, the facility serves as a sanctuary for the animals Nisi saves and aims to rehome, which tend to be the old, the sick, and the severely downtrodden. But the hotel—which will include comfortable suites and a playground area—also serves as a boarding facility for owned pets, thereby generating income that can be used to power Nisi’s projects. “So by boarding their pets with us at the hotel, people are also helping to save other animals,” Nisi’s founder points out. A win-win project, indeed.

Another money-generating project is the minivan service. Recently donated by Setar, Aruba Airport Authority, WEB, Contreras Veterinary Services, and Animal Health Veterinary Hospital, the van will be used for transporting Nisi’s own rescues—to the vet, for example—and for transporting trapped animals. However, the van will also be used as a taxi, whereby pet owners in the community can pay a small fee to have their pets transported to the vet or to the beach and other areas for socializing. It’s certainly an innovative—and integrative—way to raise funds.

In everything it does, Nisi Canis aims to encourage more responsible pet ownership among the local community. It’s always willing to extend a helping hand, to educate, but at some point, it steps back to let owners take responsibility. Nisi’s founder explains it metaphorically, “We don’t want to fish for the people in the community. We want to *teach* the village to fish, one person at a time, so that one day, they can fish on their own.” Hats off to that!

## Crijajo Trappers Aruba

In April 2016, the international organization Animal Balance came to Aruba to carry out a weeklong sterilization campaign (Operation Cunucu) using its signature TNR approach. Soon after the event, a small group of individuals got together and decided that the TNR work



*“Trapping is no joke. It’s a whole procedure that requires a lot of work.”*





*The new Nisi Canis/  
Crijajo Trappers van.*

started by Animal Balance needed to be continued—otherwise, the 338 dogs that were spayed/neutered during the campaign would be replaced soon enough by new litters, and all that work would be for nothing. And so in May 2016, Operation Flame of Hope was founded as a project under Nisi Canis Heart of Gold Foundation to serve as an ongoing local TNR program to control and manage the stray population on Aruba. The group of individuals behind the project became Crijajo Trappers Aruba, which now functions as more or less its own foundation within the Nisi Foundation. Incidentally, Crijajo Trappers Aruba is the only group in the 70 countries visited by Animal Balance that is continuing the TNR work introduced by the global organization.

The Crijajo Trappers completely separate TNR from rescue. (If the trappers do find puppies or kittens, they will work with other organizations on the island to place them.) The trappers use live animal 48F traps to catch Aruba’s roaming dogs and cats to be sterilized. “Trapping is no joke. It’s a whole procedure that requires a lot of work,” trapper Merviné Kock points out. That procedure often begins many days—even weeks—before the actual trapping. The trappers feed the strays in a systematic way—same type of food, same place, same time—every day, thereby creating a “hotspot.” Once the dogs are accustomed to the feeding ritual, the humane traps, baited with food, can be laid. Once trapped, a cat/dog is taken to one of the local vets to be spayed/neutered, treated for parasites, vaccinated, and microchipped. Then it is taken back to exactly the same spot where it was trapped in order to be released. “The return portion of TNR is important, because if it’s not returned, a vacuum is created,” says Merviné. In other words, if the animal is permanently removed from the area, the remaining animals will produce more offspring to fill the void, and so you’ve gotten nowhere. After releasing, the trappers continue to look after the medical needs of the animals, as the goal is not just a managed stray population, but also a healthy one.

The Crijajo Trappers have impressively spayed/neutered over 425 dogs and cats since May 2016. According to Merviné, the trappers have addressed most of the well-known dog packs on the island, resulting in more peaceful packs, as males are not fighting over females in heat. The Crijajo Trappers also do a lot of TNR in the hotel area, which is incredibly positive for tourism. This past May, they played an instrumental role in the MASH event launched by United Dogs Aruba Foundation in San Nicolas, helping to trap and release the 328 dogs and cats that were sterilized during the campaign.

According to Merviné, the biggest roadblocks the trappers face are low funds for sterilization, vaccination, medical expenses, and food; limited manpower; and inadequate cooperation from the community. She did, however, give credit to a few local businesses that have helped in a novel way by taking in some of the sterilized dogs. Each business takes good care of the dogs, which in turn protect the premises.

Long term, Crijajo Trappers Aruba hopes to launch an awareness campaign centered on responsible pet ownership. Merviné concludes, “We want people to be aware that they need to meet certain requirements—including having the financial means—to take a pet into their home. Plus, we want to educate citizens about how to comply with the new dog law on the island.”

Contact and donation information for Nisi Canis & Crijajo Trappers Aruba:  
Email: [support@niscanisheartofgold.net](mailto:support@niscanisheartofgold.net). Website: [www.niscanisheartofgold.net](http://www.niscanisheartofgold.net)  
Facebook: @NisiCanis and @crijojotrappersaruba

Donate money via PayPal (<https://paypal.me/niscanis>) or make a local transfer to Aruba Bank, account # 2605520190. (With your donation, please indicate that

you donated upon reading this article.)

## Stimami Sterilisami

Although not a foundation like the others in this roundup, Stimami Sterilisami (Love Me, Sterilize Me) definitely deserves a spot. The spay/neuter program was launched in January 2016 by Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, which is owned by Ewald Biemans, a longtime advocate for Aruba's animals. The program's goal is to reduce the population of homeless dogs and cats, as well as the suffering of these animals, while also promoting responsible pet ownership.

Tisa LaSorte, spokesperson for the program, explains that for the first year of the program, Bucuti subsidized the sterilization fee for individual owners of non-purebred pets as well as for non-profit animal rescue groups, making sterilization much more affordable for a large part of the local community. In February 2017, the program entered its second phase, with Bucuti subsidizing the surgery fee for foundations only, thereby focusing on those that are directly tackling the problem of homeless dogs and cats. (Indeed, it is this subsidy program that goes a long way in helping all the groups in this roundup do the amazing work they do.) The Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) and the Tourism Product Enhancement Fund (TPEF) donated a large sum to help Bucuti continue with Stimami Sterilisami in the second year, bringing the total amount injected into the program so far to over Afl. 500,000, with Afl. 300,000 from Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Afl. 100,000 from ATA, and Afl. 100,000 from TPEF.

To date, over 4,600 dogs and cats have been spayed/neutered (and microchipped) through Stimami Sterilisami—an impressive achievement, indeed. In addition to these surgeries, Tisa explains, the program has achieved two other goals: “All entities related to homeless dogs/cats and the government now all agree that sterilization is the core solution to the problem we have. The program has also significantly raised awareness among the public about the importance of sterilization.” She continues, “The two hurdles we still have are the threshold of the expense of the surgery and those who choose to breed dogs to sell puppies.”

Website: [www.stimamisterilisami.com](http://www.stimamisterilisami.com)

Facebook: [@stimamisterilisami](https://www.facebook.com/stimamisterilisami)

## United Dogs Aruba Foundation

This foundation was started in January 2016 with the intention of initiating different projects to improve the well-being of dogs on Aruba, in cooperation with other organizations fighting for the same cause. This past May, United's first big project took place—a donation-



United Dogs Aruba Foundation



United Dogs Aruba Foundation



United Dogs Aruba Foundation

powered MASH-style spay and neuter campaign geared towards the stray dogs and cats of San Nicolas and Savaneta. “The idea is to little by little, sweep the entire island, but we chose to initially focus on San Nicolas as it is the most economically challenged part of the island, and it harbors a large number of street dogs,” explains Mercedes de Bruyn, founder of United.

High-speed spay/neuter veterinary surgeons and technicians, caretakers, and other dog and cat lovers arrived on the island to carry out the campaign. They were joined by local volunteers, many of whom represented the various local animal rescue groups, for a total of about 50-60 volunteers. Two large tents and an adjacent intake/recovery area were set up at the Carnival Village complex in San Nicolas on a Tuesday morning, and for the next four days, the various teams of the TNR operation carried out the tasks of trapping dogs and cats, registering them, performing surgery, providing aftercare, and finally, releasing the animals back into the streets exactly where they were initially picked up. In addition to being sterilized, the animals were microchipped and received vaccinations and treatment for parasites.

In four days, the United MASH unit sterilized 328 dogs and cats. Mercedes shares, “We feel really

positive about how the campaign unfolded and the results. The public and government both reacted well. We’re already in talks with the government about more MASH campaigns to come. Our intention is to coordinate one each year for the next four years in order to manage the stray population on the island. We’ll soon be identifying the next area on the island where we want to focus our efforts.”

Additionally, United initiated a pet food donation station project to feed both stray dogs and cats as well as help support local organizations with food supplies. Locals and tourists can conveniently access the donation bins at Super Food, Ling & Sons, Bestial, and Just 4 Pet.

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Facebook and Instagram: [@uniteddogsaruba](https://www.facebook.com/uniteddogsaruba)

Donate via PayPal (<https://www.paypal.me/UnitedDogsAruba>) or on United’s website.

## Bestial

A special mention goes to Bestial Pet House. For many years, owner of Bestial, Shohaira Da Silva, has produced a TV show to help educate the Aruban community about responsible pet ownership. (The show will soon switch

from TV to Facebook.) Bestial is also well known for its annual dog walk. Shohaira explains, “This year we hosted our ninth walk, and 400 participants came out to join the event. It’s all about awareness...and it’s super fun!” Shohaira is a professional dog trainer and behavior specialist, schooled at the Triple Crown Academy in Texas. “I give puppy and dog training classes, but I am also available most Saturdays at Bestial Pet House to answer dog owners’ questions and concerns about dog behavior issues they might be having at home.”

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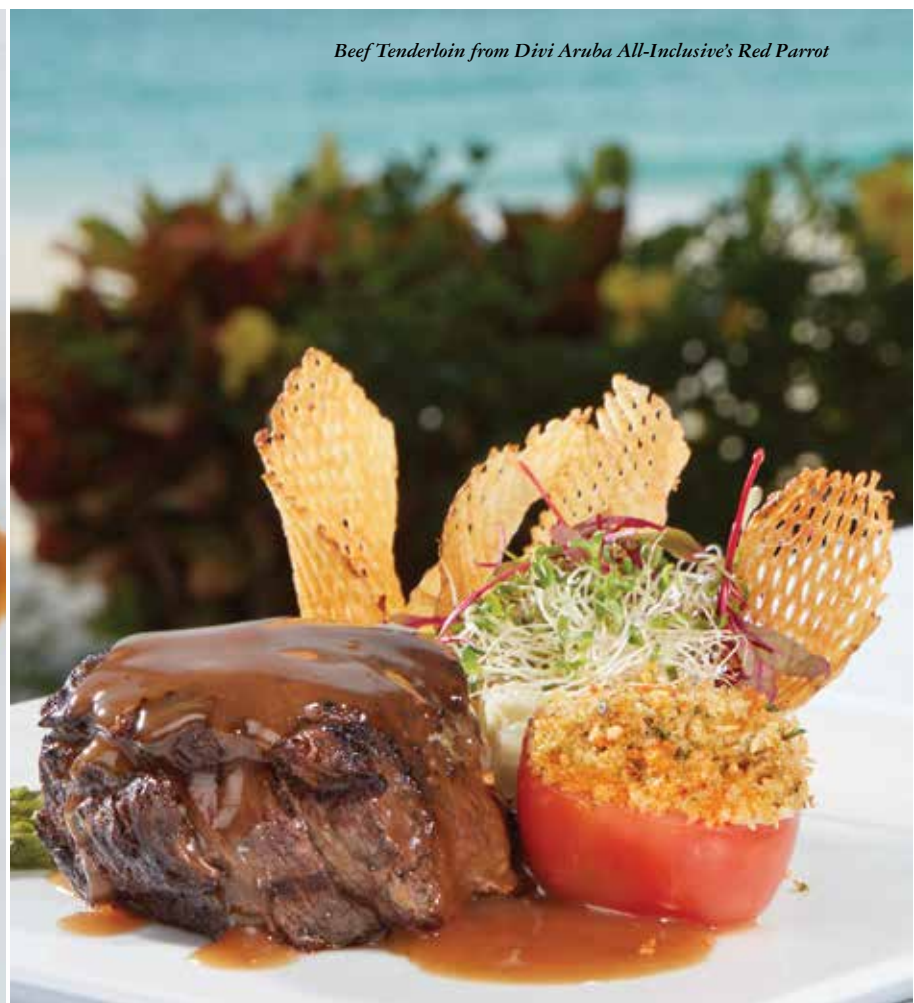
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# Redefining All-Inclusive Cuisine



*Tuna Tartar from RIU Palace's Sayuri*



*Beef Tenderloin from Divi Aruba All-Inclusive's Red Parrot*

Text by Tina Causey-Bislick  
Photography by Steve Keith

Aruba's diverse array of accommodations offers travelers the full gamut of hospitality options—from luxury resorts and boutique hotels to private homes, villas, and condominiums. Several resorts specialize in the all-inclusive vacation experience, and leading the pack on the Island are the Divi Aruba All-Inclusive Resort/Tamarijn All-Inclusive Resort and the RIU Palace/RIU Antillas.

For some vacationers, all-inclusive is the only way to go, as it promises them the ease of budget planning, the comfort of knowing that all their food and beverages and many activities are included in the room rate, and the convenience of having everything they need just steps away and all in one place. For others, however, the old-school stigma of just so-so culinary offerings at all-inclusives can be discouraging. Given that many of today's travelers are also savvy foodies, all-inclusive resorts have raised the bar, offering quality, diverse, and on-trend culinary experiences, including restaurants that feature the best of Aruba's authentic local cuisine. The Divi and RIU resorts enjoy some of the highest room occupancies on the island, spoiling their guests with luxury amenities and distinct dining.

## RIU Palace/RIU Antillas

Located side-by-side on popular Palm Beach, RIU Antillas (adults-only resort) and RIU Palace partner European sophistication with casual Caribbean character for a 24-hour all-inclusive vacation experience.

### Dining highlights at RIU Antillas and RIU Palace:

#### Sayuri (RIU Palace)

This Japanese restaurant serves a variety of sushi and rolls with its Sushi Board, as well as Asian-inspired appetizers, main courses, and desserts.

#### Rimini (RIU Antillas) and Milano (RIU Palace)

Guests can take their time and graze at the soup and salad bar with hot and cold antipasta while the culinary team prepares upscale Italian cuisine from the à la carte menu.

#### Palm Beach Steakhouse (RIU Antillas and RIU Palace)

Certified Angus steaks and burgers are the stars of the show here, but seafood lovers can opt for Caribbean lobster tail, grilled salmon, or shrimp skewers.



*Sushi Board from RIU Palace's Sayuri*



*Dasbi Soup with shiitake-stuffed wontons from RIU Palace's Sayuri*



*Sweet and Sour Pork from RIU Palace's Sayuri*

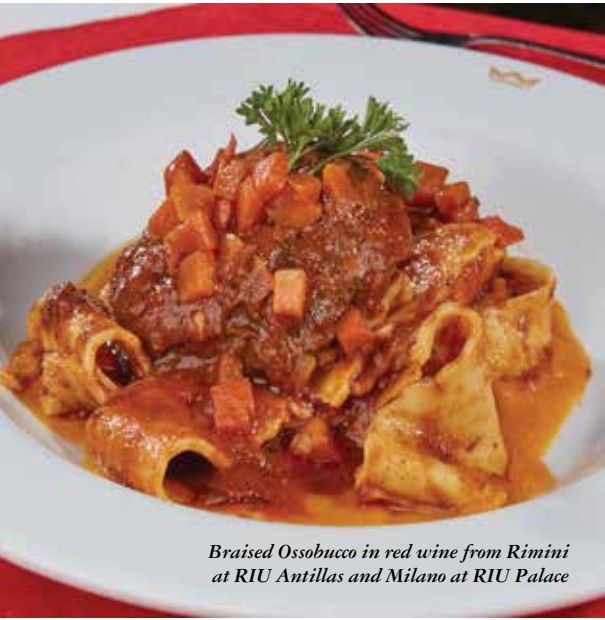


*Grilled Mabi Mabi with Thai dressing from RIU Palace's Sayuri*



*Sweet Katana from RIU Palace's Sayuri*

*Porcini-Crusted Rack of Lamb from Rimini at RIU Antillas and Milano at RIU Palace*



*Braised Ossobucco in red wine from Rimini at RIU Antillas and Milano at RIU Palace*



*Spaghetti Frutti di Mare from Rimini at RIU Antillas and Milano at RIU Palace*



*Caribbean Lobster from Palm Beach Steak House at RIU Antillas and RIU Palace*



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## SPECIAL FEATURE

### Malmok Arubiano Restaurant (RIU Antillas)

Guests can experience several authentic Aruban dishes, including keshi yena, a favorite local dish with chicken, olives, prunes, capers, and melted Gouda cheese.

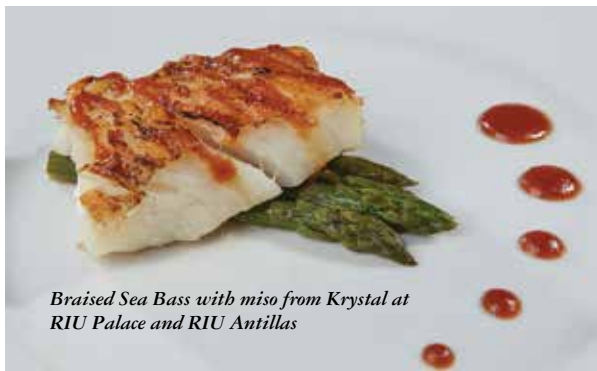
### Krystal (RIU Antillas and RIU Palace)

Contemporary fusion cuisine is presented with artistic style in this fine dining restaurant that capitalizes on fresh ingredients and bold flavors that add intriguing complexity to a menu of sharing plates, starters, main courses, and desserts.

*\*Both resorts have lavish buffet restaurants with live-action cooking stations for breakfast, lunch, and dinner; themed buffets several nights of the week; beach and pool bars; and more.*



*Creamy Lobster Risotto from Krystal at RIU Palace and RIU Antillas*



*Braised Sea Bass with miso from Krystal at RIU Palace and RIU Antillas*



*Grilled Duck Breast with spiced red wine sauce from Krystal at RIU Palace and RIU Antillas*



*Keshi Yena from Malmok Arubiano Restaurant at RIU Antillas*





*Taco Trio from Divi Aruba All-Inclusive's Pure Lime*



*Flautas from Divi Aruba All-Inclusive's Pure Lime*



## Divi Aruba All-Inclusive Resort/Tamarijn All-Inclusive Resort

Located on the pristine shores of Eagle Beach, these neighboring resorts, both with recent refurbishments and updates, work in tandem to deliver inspiring gastronomic experiences. Guests can enjoy the hospitality of both resorts.

### Dining highlights at Divi Aruba All-Inclusive:

#### Pure Lime

Guests can sip house-made sangria and margaritas at Divi's newest culinary experience, where the authentic flavors of Mexico are prepared in the open-view kitchen.

#### The Red Parrot

The resort's signature restaurant brings a casual Caribbean flair to fine dining. International and Caribbean fare is featured here, including dishes like escargots with risotto, coconut shrimp with a spicy mango sauce, and grouper stuffed with spinach in a white wine sauce.



*Ensalada Azteca from Divi Aruba All-Inclusive's Pure Lime*

## SPECIAL FEATURE

### Dining highlights at Tamarijn All-Inclusive Resort:

#### Paparazzi

Classic Italian cooking is featured here, with pasta complemented with from-scratch sauces, fresh fish, and beautiful wines to pair.

#### Ginger, New Asian Flavors

The contemporary Asian fusion cuisine here features exotic and classic dishes, as well as a variety of sushi and rolls.

#### Palm Grill

Specialty tableside hibachi grills allow guests to enjoy the interactive dining experience of stir-frying beef, chicken, shrimp, swordfish, and veggies right at the table.

#### Pizza per Tutti

Enjoy made-to-order brick oven pizza at this poolside pizzeria and bar.

*\*Both resorts feature buffet restaurants—Cunucu Terrace and Pelican Terrace—with action stations for breakfast and lunch, and a different themed buffet every night. A favorite of guests is the Caribbean Night, showcasing the flavors of Aruba and the Caribbean. The resorts have casual beach and pool bars offering lighter fare as well.*



*Pomodoro Caprese from Tamarijn All-Inclusive's Paparazzi*



*Linguini Frutti di Mare from Tamarijn All-Inclusive's Paparazzi*



*Lasagna Italiano from Tamarijn All-Inclusive's Paparazzi*



Coconut Shrimp from Divi Aruba  
All-Inclusive's Red Parrot

| SPECIAL FEATURE |



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Text by Debbie Kunder  
Photography by Steve Keith



# The Journey Continues

For Pop Artist  
Esha Alwani

I have known local singer-songwriter Esha Alwani since she first learned how to add fractions. As her math tutor, I had the pleasure of getting to know Esha as a young, sensitive girl, who between dividing decimals and rounding off numbers, would announce that she was working on the lyrics of a new song for her fledgling band, the Golden Guitars. I was also there when the tics began, only mild at first. Then they increased in severity, sometimes taking control of her entire body, and

my heart broke as I witnessed Esha struggling with Tourette's syndrome physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially.

Then Esha moved with her family to Boca Raton, Florida, and I lost touch with her for a few years. It was in Boca Raton, during her middle school years, that Esha delved deeper into songwriting as a way to cope with the challenges posed by her disorder. Her musical talents also began to thrive during this period, enabling her to

bring life to her poetry through piano, guitar, and her beautiful voice. As she captured her struggles and all the emotions that went with them in her melodies and lyrics, music became her therapy, her creative outlet, and she began to heal.

After performing her original song “Beautiful” at her eighth-grade graduation, Esha posted the performance on her Facebook page, which she planned to use as a vehicle for her message, “Music is My Therapy.” Her initial plan was that her music would simply be a way to encourage people to find what they love and let it save them. The Universe had a bit more in store for her. The video of the performance made its way to the desk of producer Kim Copeland, who in turn invited Esha to Nashville in March 2016 to record her first album, *Beautiful*.

In her social column, *Island Temptations*’ PR & special project director, Rona Coster, wrote, “Every one of the six songs on the EP is a compact, nicely worked out insight, and the string of songs together clearly narrates Esha’s journey from darkness and confusion to light and creativity.” I couldn’t say it better myself. When I heard the tracks for the first time after Esha returned to Aruba in June 2016, I couldn’t believe that the clear, confident voice I was hearing was coming from the same girl who had once been so vulnerable and broken. I still get chills every time I listen to the album.

Since the recording of *Beautiful*, Esha has racked up an impressive list of performances, delighting audiences at the Best of Aruba (April 2016), Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival (September 2016), Aruba Fashion Week (December 2016), and a handful of other events and venues. In September 2016, she rolled out her first music video, produced by Matt Lawrence from Push Focus Productions. For the video, she chose her favorite song from the *Beautiful* album, “Yesterday,” as it carries a universal message that most people can connect to—how we

can fix our mistakes to mend the past.

As the therapeutic balm of Esha’s music eased her tics and infused her with a newfound strength, her journey naturally took a new direction, and in June 2017, Esha proudly released her second album, *Dangerous*. Whereas *Beautiful* is a collection of introspective ballads, *Dangerous* is more fun and upbeat. “I wanted *Dangerous* to be more uplifting, more positive, more empowering,” Esha shares. “I feel really strong and confident now, which comes through in the album. I’m dangerous, but in a positive way. I’m bolder now—I know what I want, and I know what I need to do to get it.” In other words, she’s growing up.

The album is dangerous in another way. In *Beautiful*, Esha focuses on loving and healing herself, but in *Dangerous*, she focuses on loving other people, “mostly in a romantic way,” she clarifies with a cheeky smile. Esha has had her fair share of crushes, and many of her *Dangerous* songs contain her real feelings about real people—amplified feelings, she explains, but real none the less. “It’s like I’m opening up my diary to the people I’ve written about, my crushes, and that’s a bit dangerous,” Esha so endearingly explains.

Esha admits that the vulnerable ballads are her favorite songs to sing, so it’s not surprising that at least one of the seven songs on the *Dangerous* album, “I’m Not Loving You,” carries hints of vulnerability. “You know how sometimes we wear a mask to hide our true selves when we meet someone new? This song is about fearing that we’ve taken off the mask too soon.”

Esha is grateful to have had the opportunity to collaborate with another artist for her *Dangerous* album. “It was a lot of fun to work with Stixizza for my song ‘Walk Away.’ The song is basically a conversation between two people about one of them walking away from the relationship, but just like every other time, the person ends up staying.”

*“I wanted Dangerous to be more uplifting, more positive, more empowering.”*



Most recently, Esha gave her biggest performance yet at the Aruba Summer Music Festival, which took place on the island June 30–July 1 at the Harbor Square Arena. She shared the stage with big names like Juan Luis Guerra, Gilberto Santa Rosa, Maluma, Silvestre Dangond, and Zion & Lennox. Esha shares, “It was a big dream of mine to perform at Harbor Arena. I used to drive past the venue and announce to my dad that I would perform there one day. And now, my dream has come true.” Esha brought some serious dance moves to her performance at the festival, having worked with local choreographer Alydia Wever to weave dance into the six songs she performed. Esha chose a group of youths to accompany her on stage as back-up dancers, giving these young artists the same opportunity she was given.

And now? Esha has the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival (Sept 2017) and another music video on the horizon. In September, she will also be returning to the International School of Aruba after being homeschooled for one year. Esha explains, “I can’t wait to go back to ‘regular’ school. There’s so much more happening, so much more drama, so much more material for new songs!”

For as long as I’ve known Esha, she has always wanted to help others and make them happy. So while I can’t wait to see where Esha’s constantly evolving journey takes her next, I have no doubt that there will always be some element of inspiring others, spreading positivity, joy, and love. She ultimately hopes that people will follow her journey so they will be motivated to follow their own dreams. In my eyes, for this alone, she’s already made it big.

Follow Esha (@eshamusic) and her journey on YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook.

Website: [www.eshaofficial.com](http://www.eshaofficial.com)

Her music is available on iTunes, Apple Music, Google Play, and Spotify.



*Minister of Culture & Youth Angel Roald Bermudez and Esha look on as the Dangerous album cover is unveiled for the first time at the CD release event on June 6 at the Albambra Ballroom.*



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# Legends Pub

Text by Tina Causey-Bislick  
Photography by Steve Keith

## Brings the Gastropub Scene to the Island

Once upon a time, in a land far, far away, there was a little pub in London that decided a plate of shepherd's pie or a Sunday pot roast would be mighty tasty with that pint of beer, prompting the rise of what is now referred to as the *gastropub*. Over the following 20 years, this food and beverage concept spread across Europe and North America, and has now arrived in Aruba with Legends Pub.

Legends opened this past February on the main boulevard (former Ratland building) in Palm Beach,

merging the traditional pub with contemporary sports-bar flair and upscale comfort-food cuisine. Coaching the Legends crew are two husband-and-wife duos. Scott and Leslie Steeno, Wisconsin natives and originators of the famed Scott's Brats at Playa Linda Beach Resort, teamed up with Aruban Eduardo Pablo and his Aussie wife, Michelle, who also own a business at Playa Linda. Opening a bar/restaurant with a full menu and staff is daunting and not for the faint of heart—it's an all-consuming endeavor requiring physical, mental, and

emotional dedication 24/7. Scott and Leslie had been contemplating the gastropub venture for some time but also knew that in order to have balance in their lives, forming a partnership with another like-minded couple would be wise. "We wanted to partner with solid business people who were also creative 'idea people,' and we found that in Eduardo and Michelle," informed Scott.

The ideas flowed, a hand-picked staff was formed, and a menu with items unique to Aruba's restaurant





scene was created. There are several signature dishes on the menu, including USDA Certified Black Angus prime rib, which is not available on any other regular menu on the island. Other signature items include one of the kings of comfort food—chicken and dumplings—as well as the Legends beef burger and brat burger. A favorite signature side dish, also hard to find on other local restaurant menus, is a heaping portion of crispy Brussels sprouts. Unexpected dishes like fresh ceviche and the fresh local catch of the day are also featured on the menu. For the sports-bar traditionalists, Legends Pub excels at mainstays like wings, nachos, and a variety of sandwiches, and Scott and Leslie’s Wisconsin roots prompted them to introduce battered and fried cheese curds—the real deal—to Aruba.

The bar at Legends includes several selections of craft beers and an extensive specialty cocktail and martini menu. On Friday nights, the house band rocks the outdoor dining deck with an energetic mix of pop, rock, and a touch of blues.

As Aruba’s dining scene grows larger and more diverse, Legends Pub is a welcome addition. Operating hours are Sunday-Thursday, 3 pm to 1 am, and Friday & Saturday, noon to 1 am. For more information, go to [www.legendspubaruba.com](http://www.legendspubaruba.com). Follow them on Facebook at Legends Pub Aruba.





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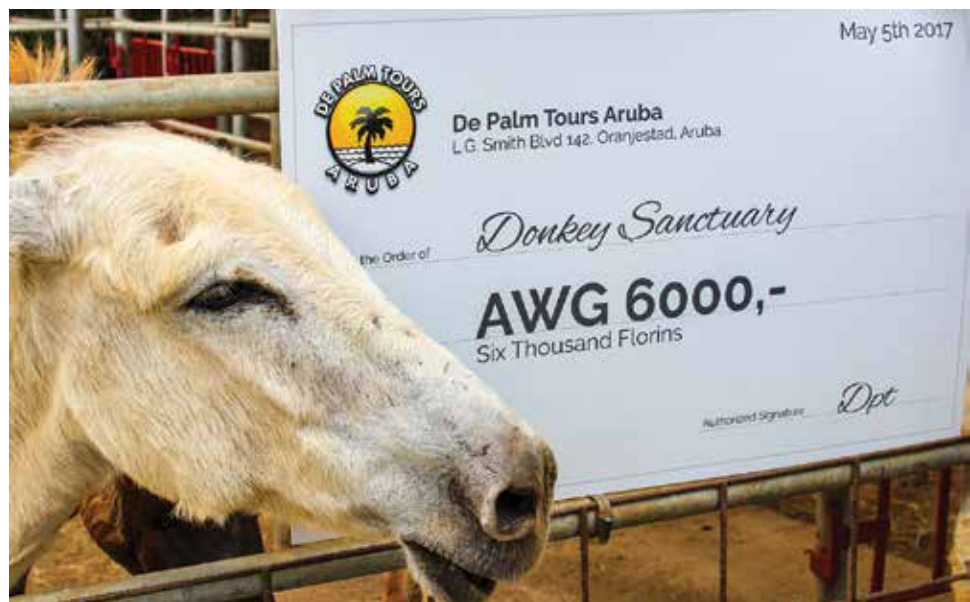


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The Aruba Donkey Sanctuary is a foundation supported entirely by donations and managed through the hard work of selfless volunteers to benefit Aruba's donkey population. The Aruban donkeys date back 500 years, when Spaniards, who used them for transportation and as beasts of burden, brought the animals here. Today, around 200 donkeys live in Aruba, with about half residing at the sanctuary.

De Palm Tours has been a long-standing supporter of the Aruba Donkey Sanctuary, and recently presented the foundation with a check for Afl. 6,000, collected during a special flea market held to raise funds for the donkeys.

Make a visit to the sanctuary—admission is free but donations are much appreciated. For more information on all things “Aruban Donkey,” visit their website at [www.arubandonkey.org](http://www.arubandonkey.org).



# Rona Coster launches much-awaited **Island Life** book

This past March, local columnist and IT team member Rona Coster launched her new book, *Island Life, Aruba's Best-Kept Diary*, during a festive event at Arubiana, an annex of the national library. The book is a selection of column articles originally penned by Rona Coster between 1992 and 2004. During the launch, the first books were handed to Padu Lampe, "Father of Aruba's Culture," and Astrid Britten, director of the Aruba National Library, in the presence of about 100 special invitees. The book, a very attractive 200-page hardcover with the look and feel of a diary, marks Rona Coster's 25th anniversary as a columnist on the island.

Rona's book is for sale at local bookstores De Wit & Van Dorp, Plaza Book Shop, and Bruna. In the Palm Beach area, the book is for sale at T.H. Palm & Company (Playa Linda Beach Resort), The Bazaar (Aruba Marriott Resort), The MarketPlace (Marriott's Surf Club), Shoco Market (Hyatt Regency), Coconuts (Barcelo Resort), Tradewinds (Costa Linda Beach Resort), RIU Antillas, Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino, Marriott's Ocean Club, Pure Indulgence Spa (Divi Phoenix), Indulgence by the Sea Spa (Divi Mega Resorts), and Taste of Aruba (South Beach Center).



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Lunch: noon to 3pm. Dinner: 6pm to 11pm

# Renaissance takes street food to a new level during the Long Table Aruba event

**I**t was a dazzling evening under the stars and on the street for the island's first Long Table Aruba. And oh, what a long table it was—measuring 375 meters, stretching down the center of L.G. Smith Boulevard from the Renaissance Marketplace extending all the way to the Crystal Casino. Retro string lights sparkled as they crisscrossed above the action, where a three-course dinner with wine pairing was served to 1,000 guests. The event, flawlessly organized and orchestrated by the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino, highlighted Aruba's community spirit and our mantra of "One Happy Island," with all



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The app has been **completely redesigned** in 2016 including a new tablet-specific design. It also features **handy maps** indicating your position and different points of interest, plus a convenient **trip planner** where you can add places and activities.

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proceeds going to local cancer charities Koningin Wilhelmina Fonds Aruba and Mary Joan Foundation Aruba. Renaissance Aruba's general manager, Paul Gielen, presented checks to both foundations in the amount of \$10,000 each.

Joining Renaissance Aruba in sponsoring the event were Caribbean Overseas, High Performance, Tropical Bottling, Flora Market, Fantastic Gardens, Zen Designs, ARTN Photography, Noticia Cla, Thunder'n Lighting, Starbucks, Bashaka, Excellent Men Power, and The Greatest Inter Employment Agency.



## PUTTING REALITY ON PAUSE.

Comfortably situated just beyond the real world and all of life's responsibilities lies Okeanos Spa at Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino. Our signature treatments, Aruban aloe and transformative salon combine to give you a place that's worthy of being called paradise. Speaking of heaven on earth, Spa Cove on Renaissance Island awaits you with massages along the shore, where the waves are just as gentle as our touch.

Okeanos Spa is located at Renaissance Mall,  
Oranjestad City Center.

For information, call 297.583.6000 ext 6176  
or visit [renaissancearubaspa.com](http://renaissancearubaspa.com).

Like us on [Facebook.com/OkeanosSpa](https://www.facebook.com/OkeanosSpa)

# Hoot hoot, **Shoco Beer** is here!



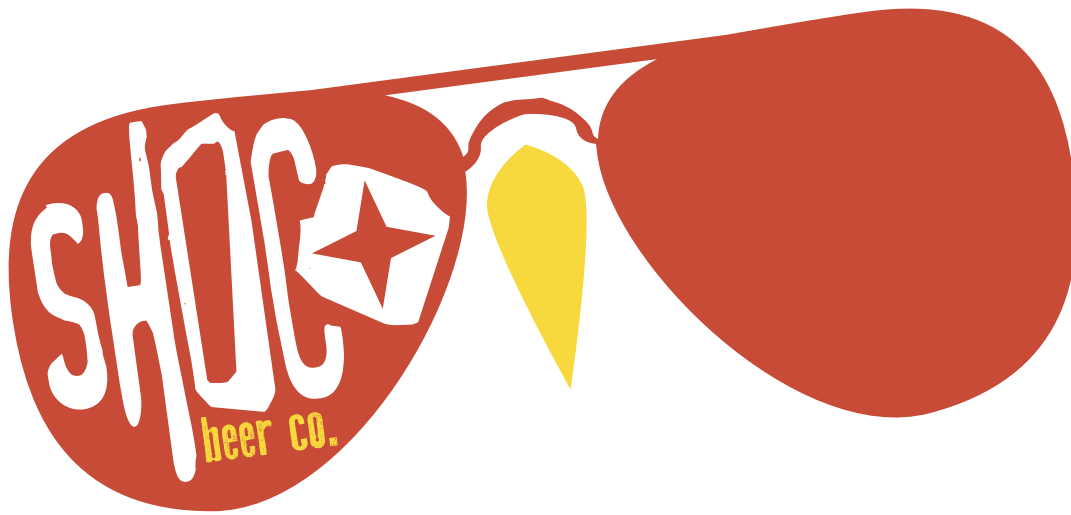
**T**he craft beer scene in North America is bigger than ever, continuing to take a bite out of the traditional mega brewery sales. In 2016, according to the Brewers Association, U.S. beer sales totaled \$107.6 billion, with craft beer enjoying \$23.5 billion of that market. Exports of craft beer are also on the rise, with 2016 exports growing by 4.4 percent. Craft beer first hit the Aruban market in 2014, and has been on the rise here since. Now, Aruba has its first craft beer. In May of this year, the Shoco Beer Company launched its first two beers in a series of six.

“We wanted a series of craft beers that embody our island lifestyle. We wanted it to be authentic and recognized by the Brewers Association as craft beer, so we met with a few

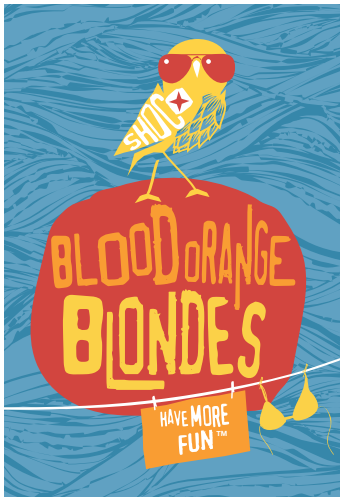
*Image by Rodney Tromp*







*"We here at Shoco Beer Co. believe in 3 things:  
Big flavor, flip-flops and giving our fellow hop heads  
something sunny to sip on. So kick back,  
crack open a brew and taste the island life!"*



craft brewers in the U.S. to find one that understood our vision and could capture the flavors and tastes that we wanted. After a few trials and errors, we found a brewmaster in Kentucky, and together we formulated six different craft beers that would become part of the Shoco Beer Co.," informs senior sales manager Taylor Escobedo.

The first two Shoco Beer selections, Blood Orange Blondes and Long Legged Lager, debuted at the Craft Beer Festival held this past May at the Renaissance Convention Center, and were an instant hit right out of the gate. Over the next few months, beer lovers can look forward to Pineapple Wheat Wave, TanLine Tangerine IPA, Sun of a Beach Prickly Pear Wheat, and One Hoppy Island Toasted Coconut Pale Ale.

The beer is named after the shoco owl, an endangered endemic species of burrowing owl and one of Aruba's national symbols. An important part of the craft beer culture is the social consciousness of these small breweries that are lauded for their charity work and contributions to their local communities. The Shoco Beer Company is proud to honor this tradition here on Aruba, and in June presented a check in the amount of \$10,000 to Arikok National Park to support its conservation efforts. Additionally, a percentage of sales will be earmarked for a fund that will go towards more conservation projects at the park.

# Loretti Design Studio opens in Paradera Park

The Loretti Design Studio in Aruba is a personal place, a place to create and to develop. Each product is made by hand and developed into a unique design. Curator of the studio and artist Deborah de Weerd, with a background in textile design, is inspired by her passion for color and eye for detail. Using an eclectic variety of materials, she continuously explores to create unique designs, presenting her work under the name Loretti Design. The landscapes, textures, and light impressions found in Aruba influence her sculptural work.

Her latest collection, *Perfectly Imperfect*, includes female figurines and contemporary jewelry. The recent *Fantasia Series* is a playful collection of shapes, movement, and color. The designs evoke a fantasy world of fairies and strange creatures, light reflections, and playful colors in organic shapes.

You can visit the Loretti Design Studio, located at Paradera Park ([www.paraderapark-aruba.com](http://www.paraderapark-aruba.com)). Feel free to reach out for an appointment or drop by during business hours.

Loretti Design Studio opens in Paradera Park.  
 T+297 592 3502  
 Website: [www.lorettidesign.com](http://www.lorettidesign.com)  
 Email: [info@lorettidesign.com](mailto:info@lorettidesign.com)



*"Working as a designer is a privilege. It is a lifestyle, a way to observe the world, a way to interact and share with others."* Deborah de Weerd



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# Elisa Lejuez introduces newest collection of Art Scarves at T.H. Palm & Company

Celebrated local artist Elisa Lejuez debuted her first collection of 100% silk Art Scarves in early 2016. Since then, a total of four limited-edition collections have been presented, with her current *Twilight* collection now available at T.H. Palm & Company. The limited-edition collections are top sellers at T.H. Palm & Company, with each collection quickly selling out. T.H. Palm & Company is located in the Palm Beach high-rise hotel area, street-side at Playa Linda Beach Resort.



*Elisa's art is directly influenced by the shapes, colors, and patterns that catch her eye, and even by a mood she feels. The scarves begin with a mood board of imagery that will be reflected abstractly in her art. The final work of art is then used to create the scarves.*

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# Gold Coast concludes construction of the first phase of Boca Druif & Boca Grandi Condos

**G**old Coast, Aruba's largest residential community, located on Malmokweg, overlooking the wetland nature reserve, recently announced the completion of the first cluster of Boca Druif Condos and the slightly more spacious Boca Grandi Condos. The second cluster of condos, located in the Mangroves V6 section on the south side of the residence, will undergo construction beginning this summer, to be delivered to owners in May 2018. The just-completed 12 condos are completely sold out, and the second phase, currently gearing up for construction, is selling briskly, informs developer Fito Croes.

The stylish Boca Druif and Boca Grandi Condos are spacious one-story condos, tastefully appointed and equipped with the latest energy-saving, state-of-the-art appliances. The two-bedroom Boca Druif Condos measure 115 square meters, and are available on both the ground and upper floors. Each upper-floor condo features two balconies and a private rooftop terrace. The three-bedroom Boca Grandi Condos, with a larger footprint at 129 square meters, are available on both the ground and upper floors. Each ground-floor condo enjoys a spacious patio while each upper-floor condo features two balconies and a private rooftop terrace.



Gold Coast resort amenities within the community include two swimming pools; a children's pool; barbecue grills; 24-hour gated security; a new clubhouse with the critically acclaimed restaurant, White Modern Cuisine; and concierge services. An ongoing vacation rental program has proven very popular, and the inventory of rental homes is expected to total up to 40 by the end of the year.

When that second phase of Boca Druif and Boca Grandi Condos wraps up next year, the original master-planned community will celebrate 100% delivery on the plan finalized for development more than ten years ago. When finished, Gold Coast will boast over 260 residences, in two- and three-bedroom townhouses, single-level three-bedroom condos, and three- and four-bedroom villa homes, set amongst 26 acres of lush landscaping, picturesque plazas, and fountains, within the walls of a fully secure community.



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📘 [urgentcarearuba](https://www.facebook.com/urgentcarearuba)



# Menu

# *temptations*

## RESTAURANT GUIDE

On the following pages, a selection of our favorite restaurants & menus

# Menu Temptations

## MEXICADO



Mexicado is a lively Mexican restaurant in Aruba with a friendly environment. The menu features authentically prepared regional dishes showcasing Mexico's most inspiring flavors. The truly ethnic Palm Beach, Aruba restaurant offers an array of elevated market foods along with a comprehensive tequila selection, including a list of handcrafted tequila cocktails. Outdoor lounge, bar and restaurant seating are available

### Main Attractions

#### TACOS

- Taco Dorado
- Seared white catch fish, ice berg, chipotle mayonnaise, guacamole, corn..... \$15.00
- Taco Carnitas \$14.00
- Slow braised pork, cilantro, onion, guacamole, corn tortillas.....

#### CHEVICHES

- Colima Ceviche \$16.00
- Grouper with lemon juice, red onion, tomatoes, cilantro, serrano chili.....
- Alcachofas y Zetas Ceviches \$14.00
- Mozzarella cheese, champignon, pancetta, Kalamata olive, oregano.....

#### BURRITOS

- Consisting of a wheat flour tortilla wrapped or folded into a cylindrical shape to completely enclose the filling. All served with rice, charro beans Mexican cheese, topped with queso fundido, lettuce, queso fresco, pico de gallo.
- Beef, Chicken, Broken Shrimp Acapulco, Vegetarian \$24.00 - \$35.00
- and mixed chicken and Beef.....

#### FAJITAS

- All served with chile poblano, cilantro, onion, peppers, pico de gallo, flour tortilla, and guacamole.
- Chicken, Beef top Round, Shrimp, Mixed Chicken and Beef, \$26.00 - \$35.00
- Season Vegetable.....

#### CAZUELAS

- Served with rice, charro beans and flour tortillas
- Mariscos 49 \$49.00
- Half lobster, shrimp, scallops, clams, grouper with chipotle tomato sauce, sweet peppers, onions cilantro.....
- A la veracruzana \$36.00
- With fish fillet, tomatoes, capers, olives, peppers, onions, salsa roja.....

### and much more...

Prices are in US\$, excluding 15% service charge as well as sales/health tax.

### Dining Information

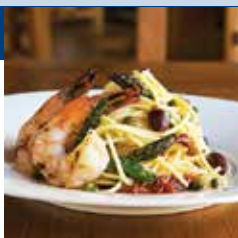
#### HOURS

6:00 pm – 10:30pm. Open daily except Monday

#### RESERVATIONS

Please reserve at 011.297.586-1234 ext. 36 or email [adventure.concierge@hyatt.com](mailto:adventure.concierge@hyatt.com) [www.aruba.hyatt.com](http://www.aruba.hyatt.com)

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## PAMPERED IN PARADISE

### P A M P E R E D in PARADISE



Imagine dining in your own private paradise, with the sea at your feet, under the star studded sky, tiki torches creating a glow on the sand and a private butler to see to your every need. Often imitated, but never quite the same, this incomparable romantic event will charm you from the moment you are escorted to your private table on the beach. The name truly says it all - there is no other dining extravaganza to compare to our own Pampered in Paradise. Relish the flavors of your perfectly prepared four-course meal, served in a leisurely, unobtrusive manner that allows you to relax, enjoy each bite, and create memories to cherish for a lifetime.

### Start your meal off with...

\$85.00

#### Dinner - Pre - Fix Menu.....

##### STARTERS (Choice of)

- Duo Lobster Crab Cakes
- Served with pickled onions, herbs, remoulade sauce
- Cherry Tomato Caprese
- Arugula, fresh local tomatoes, fresh Mozzarella, herbs oil, balsamic reduction
- Mediterranean Sald
- Tomatoes, cucumber, onion, feta cheese, black olives and mixed greens with raspberry vinaigrette
- Scallops "a la plancha"
- Fresh ginger, coriander, papaya, coconut milk, chili, cilantro, red onions and lime
- Dutch Onion Soup
- Spek, Sweet Onion, Gouda gratinée

##### ROYAL ENTREES (Choice of)

- Seared Grouper Filet
- Roasted almonds, beans, broccoli, carrots, fennel salad, tomato comfit and potatoes
- Manhattan Strip Steak
- Linguini, asparagus, tomatoes, broken shrimps, green peppercorn, cream sauce
- Roasted Supreme Chicken Breast
- Steamed broccoli, carrots, squash, creole potatoes and cabernet sauce
- Seafood Linguini
- Shrimps, scallops, mussels, clams, fresh parsley, basil in original Alfredo or marinara sauce
- Clasic Duo
- Grilled filet mignon, cabernet sauce with fresh Caribbean lobster tail and garlic broccoli, dushi mashed potatoes and café D'Paris butter

##### SWEET AT HEART (Choice of)

- Cheese Cake Duo, Cheesecake with brownies and berry compote
- Tiramisu, Coffee cream and Kahlua
- Apple Pie, Dulce de leche ice cream l almonds croucant and caramel sauce
- Lava Cake, Vanilla ice cream and Ganache sauce

Regular coffee l decaf or assorted teas

### and much more...

Prices are in US\$, excluding 17% service charge and local tax, as well as a set-up fee of \$50 per couple.

### Dining Information

#### HOURS

Open daily except Sunda. Seatings are available at 6:30 pm and 7:00 pm

#### RESERVATIONS

Please reserve at 011.297.586-1234 ext. 54 or email [adventure.concierge@hyatt.com](mailto:adventure.concierge@hyatt.com) [www.aruba.hyatt.com](http://www.aruba.hyatt.com)

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## CAFÉ PICCOLO

# cafe' piccolo



Café Piccolo is a cozy Italian bistro with an elegant show kitchen and an intimate atmosphere. Our authentic Italian restaurant lights up the wood fired, stone oven every night to serve mouthwatering pizzas, along with the succulent pastas, antipastos and wines. Check out our menu for specialty prepared dishes made with fresh seasonal ingredients from local farmers. An extensive selection of wine and beverages are available by the bottle.

### Start your meal off with...

#### First Steps

<b>CALAMARI FRITTI ALLA DIAVOLA</b> Fried squid, Madam Jeanette marinara, lime .....	\$14.00
<b>INVOLTINI DI MELANZANE E POMODORO SALSA</b> Eggplant, ricotta, mozzarella cheese, spinach, fresh homemade pomodoro sauce, basil.....	\$14.00
<b>PEPPERONI BREAD</b> Sourdough bread, mozzarella & parmesan cheese spicy pomodoro sauce, parsley.....	\$16.00
<b>PIZZETTA</b> All Pizzas will be served with fresh homemade Pizza sauce <b>Carciofi alla Griglia</b> Grilled artichoke, panceta, cherry tomato, pesto black olives.....	\$20.00
<b>Prosciutto e Arugula</b> Mozzarella cheese, prosciutto di Parma, arugula, extra virgin olive oil.....	\$21.00

#### Entrees

<b>RISOTTO CON GAMBERETTI E ASPARAGO</b> Baby shrimp, asparagus, grana Padano cheese, butter.....	\$21.00
<b>DENTICE ROSSO CON FUSILLI E PESTO</b> Red snapper, fresh spinach, pine nuts, pesto, cherry tomato.....	\$24.00
<b>RAVIOLI FORMAGGIO CON ARAGOSTA FRESCO E POMODORO SALSA</b> Cheese ravioli, braised lobster (6 oz.), fresh homemade pomodoro sauce, garlic, basil.....	\$49.00

#### Desserts

<b>TIRAMISU</b> .....	\$13.00
<b>CANNOLI</b> .....	\$11.00
<b>PANNA COTTA</b> .....	\$13.00
<b>TORTA DI FICO</b> .....	\$11.00

### and much more...

Prices are in US\$, excluding 15% service charge as well as sales/health tax.

### Dining Information

**HOURS:**  
6:00 pm – 10:00 pm. Open daily except Wednesday

**RESERVATIONS**  
Please reserve at 011.297.586-1234 ext. 36  
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## RUINAS DEL MAR

# Ruinas del Mar



Ruins by the Sea, is Hyatt Regency Aruba's signature restaurant offering contemporary cuisine in an open air environment. Guests are invited to enjoy menu items such as fresh seafood and steaks, hearth oven specialties, and a display of multiple food stations offering breakfast, Sunday Brunch, and special events. The design of Ruinas del Mal pays homage to several original Aruban architectural elements including caliche stone and the use of water in design

### Start your meal off with...

<b>MARYLAND CRAB CAKE</b> Served with remoulade sauce, mandarin.....	\$17.00
<b>BAKED BRIE</b> Local Honey, cranberry compote, candy pecan, whole grain crackers.....	\$15.00
<b>MUSSELS SALAD</b> Kanikama osaki crab, greens, diced tomato, celery, kalamata olives, cucumber, cider vinaigrette.....	\$14.00

### Main Attractions

<b>KANSAS RIB EYE STEAK</b> Fresh mushroom, seasoned vegetables, mashed potatoes and demi-glace.....	\$48.00
<b>CEDAR PLANK SALMON FILET</b> Shrimp and spinach risotto, roasted garlic oil.....	\$39.00
<b>CLASSIC DUO</b> Grilled filet, cabernet sauce with fresh Caribbean lobster tail & garlic broccoli, dushi mashed potatoes and Café de Paris butter .....	\$55.00
<b>FRESH CATCH</b> Sustainable seafood simply prepared with side of the day.....	Market price
<b>BROILED LOBSTER TAIL</b> Mashed potato, asparagus, local roasted tomato, clarified butter.....	\$57.00
<b>ROASTED LAMB CHOP</b> Pumpkin and goat cheese risotto, asparagus, drizzle of amaretto served with mint demi-glace sauce.....	\$47.00

### and much more...

Prices are in US\$, excluding 15% service charge as well as sales/health tax.

### Dining Information

**HOURS**  
6:00 pm – 10:30pm. Open daily except Sunday  
7:30 am - 12 pm. Open for breakfast daily except Sundays  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Open Sundays for Champagne Brunch

**RESERVATIONS**  
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